

Chapter 1	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Background	1-1
1.2	Document Audience	1-1
1.3	Document Scope	1-2

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In order to improve fiscal control over Section 8 and other assisted housing programs the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has developed the Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS).

The first goal of TRACS is to collect tenant data for all programs and automatically generate payments for subsidy programs where HUD is the contract administrator—based upon the contract and tenant data resident in the system. The second goal is to determine the accuracy of payments made by Public Housing Agencies/State Housing Agencies acting as Contract Administrators. Submission of new certifications, re-certifications, move-in/outs, etc. causes the system to recalculate the subsidy payments based upon the new data being introduced.

1.2 Document Audience

This user's guide was written as a technical-level document; also, it is intended to be used in conjunction with the HUD 4350.3 Handbook. The audience for this document will be the technical resources available to the Owner/Management Agents/ State Housing Finance Agencies/PHAs (Industry) who will be charged with implementing the automated transmissions to TRACS.

1.3 Document Scope

Analysts should refer to the definitions and codes defined in the HUD 4350.3 Handbook for MAT fields which have a 50059 item reference. *Definitions, codes, and edits which occur in this user's guide for these items are intended to further clarify the handbook or to aid in automation and are not intended to supersede the handbook definition.*